REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT

For the Year Ending June 30, 1937.

Epstean Collection

The efforts of the Rare Book Department during the year 1936-1937 were concentrated chiefly upon the preparation of a printed catalogue of the Epstean Collection, and in getting the collection bound. In the Spring of 1936 the Curator of the Department suggested the possibility of a catalogue to Mr. Epstean before his departure for Europe. By November 1936 arrangements were completed and the actual work began. Through the patient and energetic collaboration of the entire staff, and especially of Miss Bogardus and Miss Frick, it was possible to complete the entire work and have printed copies ready by April 30, 1937. This catalogue is the first publication in book form dealing with one phase of the department's work, and Mr. Epstean's generosity in providing not only the books, but also the means for the publication of the catalogue, was most welcome.

In the preparation of the catalogue it was found practical to transfer from the South Hall stacks the older photographic books, and especially the periodicals of the Library which supplement the Epstean material most usefully.

The Plimpton Library

The next great task of the Department, after the completion of the housing facilities now under reconstruction, will be the proper bibliographical organization of the Plimpton Library, which during 1936-1937 was housed in a special air-conditioned room in South Hall. The most important work on the collection this year was the correction

of proofs sent us by Dr. Wilson of the Library of Congress, the American editor of the new Manuscript Census of De Ricci. As a result of this checking, the manuscripts were arranged on the shelves and numbered according to the De Ricci numbers. Over fifty manuscripts have thereby come to light which Mr. De Ricci did not see and which were listed for the Census by Miss Anne M. Nill. The incunabula have received a strictly chronological arrangement on the shelves. The important copy-books and other material on penmanship of genuine historical value has been segregated from the more common school writing-books of the 19th and 20th centuries. Finally, the mathematics books have been arranged, first segregating the European from the American publications, and then giving to the former a complete chronological arrangement, according to date, or approximate date, of publication, with an alphabetical arrangement under each date. Arrangement on the shelves of the remaining material is being continued by Mr. Ives.

The American Type Founder's Library

The American Type Founder's Library, deposited by the American Type Founder's Company in South Hall, and cared for by Miss Dorothy Eggert under the direct supervision of the Director of Libraries, has naturally influenced the work of the Rare Book Department. All offers of books this year had to be checked against the holdings of the American Type Founder's Library in order to avoid the possibility of future duplication. Also, many typographical inquiries received by our department led to the consultation of the American Type Founder's Library. In all these cases Miss Eggert has cooperated willingly and effectively.

The Seligman Library

This year, Dr. Seligman has added many more books than he usually does to the library. They have been largely French pamphlets, and books on finance of the 18th century.

Dr. Seligman has had the new books he has bought bound before he has put them in the library. Besides this, we have had two lots, of 100 books each, bound, for which Dr. Seligman and the Library have split the bill. Miss Janet Bogardus would particularly like to mention the work done by Miss von Dobeneck in mounting the Seligman broadsides. She has been able, working intermittently all year, to mount all of our folio, one-leaf broadsides. They are beautifully done, and the work will prove very valuable, both for the appearance of the library, and for the preservation of the material and the ease with which it may be used. The next step, and one that should be accomplished in the near future, is the provision of boxes, and possibly of cases, in which to house these broadsides. The other important thing is to provide some means, perhaps bound scrapbooks, for taking care of all the ephemeral material left, which does not need to be, or cannot be, bound or mounted.

Quite a lot of bibliographical work has been done for Dr. Seligman this year. The number of readers in the library has not been large, but the reference work has been interesting.

The David Eugene Smith Collection

The collection was increased this year by one hundred and thirty-five portraits and nine autograph letters - the gift of Dr. Smith. This brings the number of portraits up to almost three thousand,

representing a thousand different persons. To supplement this, the library maintains an index of portraits found in books, compiled as the books are catalogued.

Most of the librarian's time this year has been devoted to the Epstean collection of photography. In addition to the cataloguing of some three hundred titles, the preparation of copy for the printed catalogue of fourteen hundred items had to be looked after. Several proof readings of the complete catalogue were made as it was going through the press.

In December, a collection of instruments, portraits and books was loaned to the Planetarium for a five-month's exhibit. The June issue of this institution's monthly periodical, The Sky, carried a splendid article about the instruments by Arthur L. Draper, supplemented by a dozen very fine pictures of individual pieces. A representative exhibit of the instruments, and books dealing with them, is now on display in one portion of the Rare Book Department exhibit room, for the benefit of American Library Association visitors and students in the Summer School Session.

The Smith Collection, together with the other material housed in Room 209, was moved in May to Room 306 Low Memorial Library while the quarters are being thoroughly renovated, including the construction of a fire-proof vault suitable for the housing of the Plimpton and Smith rarities.

The Dale Collection

There has been no activity in this collection. The situation is not altogether fortunate. There is a small appropriation, but no

purchasing policy has been developed. I would like to suggest that this matter be taken up in the Fall of 1937.

Cataloguing

Miss Frick's cataloguing statistics for the period October 1936 to June 11, 1937, are as follows:

Epstean Collection		David Eugene Smith Collection	
Titles (Books)	308	Titles	25
Volumes	316	Volumes	25
Analytics	21	Volumes of pamphlets	1
Titles (Periodicals)	8	Analytics	43
Volumes	87		

Miss Bogardus submits the following cataloguing report:

Cataloguing statistics for the Epstean Library:

Books catalogued	626 (679 v.)
Periodicals transferred from the Main Library	31 titles (791 v.)
Volumes of pamphlets	4 (73 titles)
Analytics	163

Cataloguing statistics for the Rare Book Department other than Epstean:

Books catalogued	79 (88 v.)
Books recatalogued	57 (66 v.)

Total statistics:

Books	762 (833 v.)
Periodicals transferred	31 (791 v.)
Vol. of pamp.	4 (73 titles)
Analytics	163

Note: This does not take into consideration the periodicals catalogued by Mrs. Douglas for the Epstean Library, the regular cataloguing done by Miss Terry and the serial catalogue department for the Rare Book Department, nor the cataloguing of incunabula done

by Mr. Ives, or Miss Frick's cataloguing. Much time, which was not counted as cataloguing, was spent in typing the cards, preparing the material, making the index and reading proof for the Epstean catalogue.

Incunabula

Mr. Ives has completed his work on the cataloguing of the University's incunabula. Our department now has records covering the holdings of incunabula in all departments of the Library, and detailed information on the material in our own manuscript room. The next step will be to reorganize the manuscript material and produce much needed records of the University Library's holdings. A plan for this work is under consideration.

Accessions

Apart from the regular accessions to the department's reference collection, a few single items of particular interest can be mentioned. Both by purchase and gift some excellent French books, illustrated by modern artists of distinction, have been acquired. Also, an interesting modern English binding by Sybil Pye has been purchased for a very reasonable sum.

Gifts

The outstanding gift of the year was of course the Plimpton Library. Next in importance comes the financing of the Epstean Catalogue, and the money for the binding of that collection.

Mr. John Clyde Oswald gave us a group of printers' gift books; Mr. Ernst Reichl and Georg Salter have continued to give us original drawings and dummies of their current work as well as examples of the finished products. Mr. Epstean also gave us six metal frames, to be used in decorating our walls with changing exhibits of single leaf mate-

rial. Several other gifts of material other than books have come to us this year. For instance, the Bauer Type Foundry most generously has given us $300 worth of new printing type.

A notable gift came from Mr. Porter Garnett, former Director of the Laboratory Press at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We had formerly received books and specimens of the work of his press from Mr. Garnett. This year he has entrusted to us a unique archive of letters and documents illustrating the work of the Laboratory Press during the entire period of its existence. In a letter of June 13, 1937, Mr. Garnett makes an interesting suggestion:

"...It is my belief that the Collection at Columbia is the proper repository for such records. In this connection I am moved to offer a suggestion. It is this: Might it not be a good idea for you to take some preliminary measures that might lead to the acquisition by your library of the professional correspondence of men like Bruce Rogers and Frederic Goudy? I instance them because neither is attached to any institution. Mr. Updike's papers, one might suppose, will remain with the Merrymount Press, unless - as is possible - they should go to Harvard. There is also the possibility that Mr. Rogers's papers would, more or less automatically, go to Purdue. If, however, it should be understood that Columbia purposed to be not only an archive but the archive of American printing, might not much be done toward building up an extremely important corpus of documentary material? What I suggest is an extension of what you have already undertaken by assembling portraits. The Rogers and Goudy papers, scrap-books, memorabilia, etc., would be of great interest and value. I should imagine, also, that Mr. John Clyde Oswald's papers dealing with printing would be both voluminous and important. And there are many others -- Mr. Bullen, Mr. Warde, Mr. Ransom. Well, it's just an idea..."

Just before the end of the year, Mr. Frederic W. Goudy prepared for us a very interesting exhibit illustrating his method of producing printing type. It is a stage-by-stage showing of the process, from the original drawings to the finished type. It is hoped that it may be possible further to interest Mr. Goudy in the growth of our typographic collections and to interest him in contributing some of the unique material in his possession.

Budget

The regular annual appropriation of $1,000 again covered the usual reference accessions and a few outstanding single purchases. The upkeep of the Epstean Collection is a matter that we want further to discuss with Mr. Epstean, and there is some hope that a satisfactory solution may be found. The biggest question for the future is the upkeep of the Plimpton Library. A substantial fund will be necessary to enable us to make even a few accessions each year. It would be a great pity not to continue to develop this splendid collection.

Binding and Repair

There is still a great deal of work to be done that has been waiting for a long time. The regular binding routine was of course interrupted by the binding of the Epstean Collection, and a great deal of unbound material has thus been taken care of. However, the fact remains that for the last two years the amount of unbound material has increased instead of decreased. This is due in part to the special nature of our material, which in many cases calls for individual treatment. In this connection, the help of Miss von Dobeneck has been invaluable. She has made it possible for us to get a great deal of material taken care of more competently, with less expense, with greater safety and ease of handling than would have been possible with a commercial binder. The Rare Book Department has always felt a measure of responsibility not only for its own collections, but for the competent care and repair of rare material elsewhere in the Library. With this in mind, the Curator of the department has discussed general repair problems with Miss von Dobeneck, and he is including in his report

(1) a copy of the report on repair work done from October 1, 1936, to July 1, 1937, and (2) a letter containing some interesting statistics and suggestions for the future development of repair work. The Rare Book Department heartily recommends Miss von Dobeneck's suggestions.

Miss von Dobeneck's Report

The repair work done in Low Library, 1936-1937, was for the following departments:

Rare Book (including Epstean and Seligman Collections)
Avery
Columbiana
Business
School of Library Service

For the Rare Book Department:

75 books- - - - - - - - - - - entirely new backs and corners, including some gilding.

155 books - minor repairs -- such as changing numbers and plates, inserting and mending pages, dying, cleaning, oiling.

23 mats - - - - - - - - - - - cut and mounted.

4 slip-covers - - - - - - - made for valuable leather bindings.

19 special pamphlets

70 hand-sewn Müller exhibition catalogues.

Epstean Collection: 780 books, minor repairs

Seligman Collection: 154 mats cut and mounted

For Avery:

110 books - - - - - - - - - - -new backs and corners, including some gilding.

For Columbiana:

41 mats - - - - - - - - - - - -cut and mounted

For the School of Library Service:

7 hand-sewn pamphlets

For Business:

3 books, major repairs

3 hand-sewn pamphlets

Summary:

Work done for all departments:

185 books - - - - major repairs
935 books - - - - minor repairs
1030 books - - - - replated
30 books - - - - regilded
30 new pamphlets
218 new mats
70 catalogues

Letter from Miss von Dobeneck

June 18, 1937

"Dear Dr. Lehmann-Haupt:

You asked me to give you an approximate idea of what the repair work done in Low Library would cost if it were done by a commercial binder. As you know, it is impossible to give you an exact statement, but the following is the best I can do.

185 books, major repairs	at $2.50	$452.50
935 books, minor repairs	at .50	467.50
218 mats	at 1.50	327.00
30 pamphlets	at .35	10.50
6 slip-cases	at 2.00	12.00
TOTAL -		$1269.50

Cost of materials I used:

Leather	$44.20
Board	70.71
Paper	5.00
Gold	2.00
Type	7.00
TOTAL -	$128.91

At the same time I would like to take the opportunity to express my personal feelings concerning the Department. In the first place, the repair work done throughout the Library is of considerable importance. Outside of all the special collections, which should be kept in good condition, there is much other work necessary. For instance, there is an endless number of books, of which new copies are unavailable, that ought to be preserved with Japanese paper; there were this year about one thousand such books from the Reference Department and the School of Library Service. There is also such work as preserving of manuscripts and original letters, mounting of clippings, repairing of maps, etc.

Much of this work is now being done in South Hall, but no record of it is kept and no special person designated to it. The routine work in the South Hall Bindery is increasing and requires the full attention of the two men now working there. The special repair work means an interruption of their work and consequently a holding-up of books and pamphlets constantly used by students. Furthermore, for the better type of repair work there is neither room nor suitable equipment in the South Hall Bindery.

The arrangement made for the past two winters, that I work part time in the Low Library, has taken care of a portion of the work, as shown by my 1936-1937 report. With the help of two N. Y. A. students, I have turned out a reasonable amount of books, mats, and other work.

With the constant growth of the Library, the repair work is necessarily increasing. To do more work, good work that will last, I would like to have my own tools and materials. I would also suggest that I have an assistant, not a student, but a skilled worker; one who has had some experience in the technique and materials used in bookbinding. I feel sure the Library would be well paid for the amount invested in these two additions to the Repair Department.

Respectfully yours,

"Signed" M. v. Dobeneck"

Exhibitions

Following the plan developed in former years, the Summer, Fall and Winter seasons were used for a semi-permanent showing of our book museum material, assembled under the title: "THE EVOLUTION OF THE BOOK. Manuscript Writing - Typography - Illustration - Bookbinding. Selected from special collections of the University Library." This exhibition proved of interest to the many University visitors from many

parts of the world who wander into the Low Library building, and are always eager to see what is being offered. More particularly, instructors and their classes found good use for the material on view. Dr. Rockwell, Professor McPherson, Mr. Weitenkampf, Mr. Oswald, Mr. and Mrs. Gerlach, and the Library School students in Bookmaking courses can be mentioned in this connection.

As in former years, the Spring season was used for the showing of special material. During the month of March, the Rare Book Department had an exhibition of "BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS" by Hans Alexander Müller, the former Professor of Wood-engraving at the Leipzig State Academy of Graphic Arts. In explanation of the particular merit of this exhibition, we prepared at the Library a small catalogue which contains the following Introductory Note:

"However deeply industrialization may have affected the graphic arts, there is no doubt that certain fundamentals have not been and can not be touched. In bookbinding and in handlettering, for instance, valuable traditions of craftsmanship have once more been restored to an active participation in the artistic life of our time. In the field of book illustration, no more convincing proof of the inherent vitality of personal craftsmanship can be offered than the wood engravings of Hans Alexander Mueller. He masters the traditional woodcut with its strongly contrasted blacks and whites, as well as the finely cut wood engraving in delicate gray tones. He enjoys the definite precision of the engraved plate, but he also reproduces the softer shadings of a water color sketch. Sometimes he adds a delicate color to his black and white plate. When he goes further and uses a full range of colors, he equals the technical brilliance of modern photomechanical color printing, but he adds a note of unique intimacy and charm.

For all their variety of technique, his many engravings are held together by a deep integrity of conception and of craftsmanship. His approach to book illustration is free and original. He favors nature and the sea, is himself an ardent sailor, and the fresh breeze of the sea is found in many of his paintings, drawings and engravings.

From 1907 to 1910 he studied at the State Academy of Graphic Arts in Leipzig, where, after the War, he was appointed to a professorship and was given charge of the class in wood engraving. In his capacity of academic instructor, he for many years led a younger generation

to appreciate and to study a medium that has never lost its vitality and its universal appeal to all lovers of the graphic arts."

This catalogue was made possible through generous contributions of labor and materials. The composition was the work of Mr. Wolfgang von Eckardt, registered for a course in the School of Library Service. The paper was given by Mr. Melvin Loos, the presswork by Dr. Robert Leslie at "The Composing Room," and the cuts by the Walker Engraving Company.

Miscellaneous Activities

As in former years, members of the University faculty brought over groups of students for the showing of special material illustrating a phase of the course. These instructors were:

Professor Ayres, Greet, Loomis, and Miss Howard of Barnard College, who came twice.

Members of the faculty and student body have been helpful in pointing out rare volumes in the General Library collections which they recommended for transfer to Rare Books.

On Monday, July 27, 1936, the Rare Book Department had the pleasure of welcoming for tea the Summer School faculty of the School of Library Service.

Room 103 was painted and the woodwork refreshed by the Department of Buildings and Grounds. A small printing office has been installed there, and some actual printing has been done. More important, however, is the experience that this equipment represents, for it provides a most valuable means of demonstrating early methods to students in bookmaking classes.

Mrs. Beatrice Warde, of London, lectured on Monday, March 1, 1937, on "Recent Trends in British Book Design."

The Book Study Club

As in former years, the Book Study Club pursued an active program, which included the following events:

Nov. 9, 1936: Mr. Joseph Blumenthal spoke on his experiences in re-cutting a hand composition face for the modern composing machine.

Dec. 7, 1936: Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Bullen were the guests of the Club.

January 11, 1937: Mr. Karl Küp spoke on the Spencer Collection at the New York Public Library.

February 8, 1937: Visit to the Plimpton and American Type Founder's Libraries.

March 1, 1937: Mrs. Warde's lecture.

April 12, 1937: Dr. Nancy Lee Swann, Princeton, spoke on "Chao's Water Classic: A Book Study," and Professor Jan J. L. Duyvendak, Leiden, spoke on "The First Chinese Atlas Printed in the West."

May 10, 1937: Dr. Otto Bettmann spoke on "Library Research with the Leica."

Staff Activities

The Curator of the Rare Book Department had the pleasure of speaking:

At the 15th Annual Conference on Printing Education in Baltimore, June 29 - July 2, 1936, on "Teaching the Graphic Arts Fundamentals; Industrialization and Graphic Arts Education;"

To the Princeton Bibliographical Society, on October 26, 1936, on "The Heritage of the Manuscript;"

To the Smith College Book Club on December 3, 1936;

At the opening night of the American Institute of Graphic Arts Annual Exhibition on "The Fifty Books of the Year;"

To the Bibliographical Society of America, on Wednesday, June 23, 1937, on "The Future of Typographic Research."

He also contributed an article on "Rare Books in the University" for the September 1936 issue of the Columbia University Quarterly, in which he attempted a careful analysis of the department's first six years of work. Also, he is glad to report the appearance, in the Spring of 1937, of "Das Amerikanische Buchwesen," undertaken for the Hiersemann publishing house in Leipzig in collaboration with Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth and Miss Ruth S. Granniss.

Respectfully submitted

H. Lehmann-Haupt

July 1, 1937, on board "S. S. Columbus."

DAVID EUGENE SMITH MATHEMATICAL LIBRARY

Annual Report

June 11, 1937

The collection was increased this year by one hundred and thirty-five portraits and nine autograph letters - the gift of Dr. Smith. This brings the number of portraits up to almost three thousand, representing a thousand different persons. To supplement this, the department maintains an index of portraits found in books, compiled as the books are cataloged.

Most of the librarian's time this year has been devoted to the Epstean collection of photography. In addition to the cataloging of some three hundred titles, the responsibility for preparation of copy for the printed catalogue of fourteen hundred items fell on this department, ably aided by Miss Bogardus. Several proof readings of the complete catalogue were made as it was going through the press.

In December, a collection of instruments, portraits and books was loaned to the Planetarium for a five-month's exhibit. The June issue of this institution's monthly periodical, The Sky, carried a splendid article about the instruments by Arthur L. Draper, supplemented by a dozen very fine pictures of individual pieces. A representative exhibit of the instruments, and books dealing with them, is now on display in the Rare Book Department exhibit room for the benefit of American Library Association visitors and students in the Summer School Session.

The Library was moved, in May, from Room 209 Low Library to Room 306 Low Library while the quarters are being thoroughly renovated,

including the construction of a fire-proof vault suitable for the housing of the Plimpton and Smith rarities.

Cataloging statistics for the period October, 1936, to June 11, 1937, are:

Epstean collection

Titles (Books)	308
Volumes	316
Analytics	21
Titles (Periodicals)	8
Volumes	87

David Eugene Smith collection

Titles	25
Volumes	25
Volumes of pamphlets	1
Analytics	43

Summary

Titles (Books)	333
Volumes	341
Volumes of pamphlets	1
Analytics	64
Titles (Periodicals)	8
Volumes	87

Librarian, David Eugene Smith
Mathematical Library

October 15, 1937

Copy of the above report sent to Dr. Williamson with the addition ofthe following:

Memorandum. October 15, 1937

The books devoted to the following subjects have now been fully cataloged:

History of mathematics (General)
Biography of mathematicians (Individual and collective)
History of arithmetic
History of numerals